

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY FEBRUARY 4, 2003

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2003–04 REGULAR SESSION

House Resolution

No. 13

Introduced by Assembly Member Strickland

January 27, 2003

House Resolution No. 13—Relative to Ronald Reagan’s Birthday.

1 WHEREAS, Ronald Wilson Reagan was born in the
2 midwestern farming town of Tampico, Illinois, on February 6,
3 1911; and

4 WHEREAS, His job as a radio sports announcer after
5 graduation from Eureka College started Ronald Reagan in the
6 public life that would eventually lead him to the Presidency of the
7 United States; and

8 WHEREAS, Ronald Reagan has four children, Maureen
9 (*deceased*), Michael, Patricia Ann, and Ronald Prescott; and

10 WHEREAS, Well-known throughout the country as an actor
11 whose film career included more than 50 films, normally playing
12 the hero, including the part of legendary Notre Dame halfback
13 George Gipp in 1940’s “Knute Rockne, All American,” he has
14 been well known by the nickname “the Gipper”; and

15 WHEREAS, Ronald Reagan’s first official leadership role was
16 as President of the Screen Actors Guild, a position he held for six
17 one-year terms; and

18 WHEREAS, The changing political beliefs of Ronald Reagan
19 gradually led him to leave his movie career, and he became a
20 spokesman for the General Electric Company; and

1 WHEREAS, Ronald Reagan joined the Republican Party in
2 1962, and in 1966 he was elected Governor of California by a
3 margin of a million votes, and a position which he would hold for
4 the next eight years and which would bring him recognition as a
5 politician of national stature; and

6 WHEREAS, After two unsuccessful attempts at the Presidency
7 of the United States, Ronald Reagan swept all but six states and the
8 District of Columbia in the Presidential election of 1980 and
9 scored an even greater margin of victory in 1984 with the greatest
10 number of electoral votes ever tallied by a Presidential candidate
11 in the history of American Presidential elections; and

12 WHEREAS, Ronald Reagan became one of the most popular
13 Presidents in history. Inheriting a nation with rampant inflation
14 and high unemployment, the theory of supply-side economics,
15 known as “Reagonomics,” resulted in a drop in the inflation rate
16 from 13.5 percent in 1980 to under 5 percent by 1982 and
17 throughout the rest of his term; and

18 WHEREAS, His commitment to freedom and opposition to the
19 spread of communism resulted in the end of the Cold War in 1989.
20 He maintained a firm and determined stance against terrorism,
21 exemplified by American retaliation against Libya for the death of
22 Americans in a Berlin discotheque in 1986; and

23 WHEREAS, In a remark made during the 1984 campaign,
24 President Ronald Reagan commented that he would like to be
25 remembered as someone who gave the government back to the
26 people, and he worked toward that goal with a bold agenda of
27 restoring accountability and common sense to government; and

28 WHEREAS, President Reagan’s social policy agenda for the
29 nation’s children helped lower crime and drug use in America’s
30 neighborhoods, and his commitment to our armed forces
31 continued to build the national strength that he saw as necessary
32 for the protection of freedom in this country and throughout the
33 world; and

34 WHEREAS, President Reagan’s vision of “peace through
35 strength” led to the end of the Cold War and the ultimate demise
36 of the Soviet Union, thus guaranteeing basic human rights for
37 millions of people and easing the threat of nuclear war; and

38 WHEREAS, Throughout his years as President, Ronald Reagan
39 displayed consistent optimism and the self-confidence that
40 endeared him to millions, and even when personal danger touched

1 him, as in the assassination attempt in 1981 that left him wounded,
2 he was upbeat and reassuring; and

3 WHEREAS, During his two-term administration (1981-1989),
4 Reagan was a great advocate of naval power, calling for an effort
5 to rebuild United States military capability to a 15-carrier,
6 600-ship Navy, Reagan demonstrated his strategic understanding
7 of aircraft carriers' importance as both war fighting and
8 peacekeeping assets by initiating four Nimitz-class carriers. By the
9 time he left office, he achieved a 15-carrier Navy of 594 ships
10 deployed around the world; and

11 WHEREAS, On November 5, 1994, Ronald Reagan disclosed
12 that he had Alzheimer's disease in the hopes of bringing greater
13 awareness about this condition and a clearer understanding of the
14 individuals and families who are affected by it; and

15 WHEREAS, On Sunday, March 4, 2001, his wife, Nancy
16 Reagan, performed the commission ceremony for the latest fleet
17 carrier for the Navy, the ninth ship of the Nimitz Class, CVN-76,
18 the USS Ronald Reagan; and

19 WHEREAS, On February 6, 2003, Ronald Reagan will reach
20 the age of 92 years, thus continuing to be the oldest former
21 President in the history of our nation; now, therefore, be it

22 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California*, That the
23 Members take great pride in honoring Ronald Reagan for his many
24 contributions to our country and in celebrating his 92 years of life;
25 and be it further

26 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly shall transmit
27 copies of this resolution to former President of the United States,
28 Ronald Reagan, and his family.